

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NASA-01 NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8507

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02689

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, UK, UR

SUBJECT: ASPECTS OF WILSON VISIT TO MOSCOW: ARMS CONTROL

1. SUMMARY. UK REGARDS ANGLO-SOVIET DECLARATION ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS ONE OF MOST SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS OF WILSON VISIT TO MOSCOW. IT DEMONSTRATES KEEN INTEREST OF PRESENT UK GOVERNMENT IN DISARMAMENT AND IS ONLY SECONDARILY AN INDICATION OF IMPROVED UK/USSR RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 19, JOHN EDMONDS, HEAD OF FCO ARMS CON-

TROL AND DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT, BRIEFED US ON GENERAL DISARMAMENT ASPECTS OF WILSON VISIT TO MOSCOW FEB 13-17. MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS FIELD WAS ANGLO-SOVIET DECLARATION ON NON-PROLIFERATION BEING SENT SEPTEL. THIS WAS RESULT OF UK INITIATIVE, PROPOSED TO USSR PRIOR TO VISIT. IT REFLECTS IMPORTANCE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ISSUES.

3. BRITISH WERE SATISFIED WITH FINAL DECLARATION. THEIR ORIGINAL DRAFT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC BUT THEY "GOT MORE THAN THEY HAD HOPED". SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN LONDON HAD BEEN NEGATIVE IN THEIR REACTION TO BRITISH PROPOSAL PRIOR TO VISIT. IN MOSCOW, BRITISH NOTED THAT RUSSIAN DISARMAMENT SPECIALISTS SEEMED MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE THAN UK DESK OFFICIALS WHO TOOK HARDER LINE.

4. UK HAD HOPED TO HAVE SOME MENTION OF THEIR IAEA PNE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL IN DECLARATION. THIS DID NOT COME TO PASS AND WAS ONLY MAJOR OMISSION. EDMONDS WAS ALSO SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED WITH FINAL FORMULATION ON WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC) WHICH LEFT OUT SOME OF QUALIFICATIONS IN BRITISH DRAFT. PRIME MINISTER WILSON COMPOUNDED THIS PROBLEM BY SAYING IN HIS REPORT TO PARLIAMENT THAT BOTH SIDES HAD "JOINED IN CALLING FOR WDC". EDMONDS SAID PM'S STATEMENT WAS WRITTEN IN CABINET OFFICE. FCO WOULD HAVE TO CLARIFY THIS IN LATER STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT PROBABLY BY ENNALS OR CALLAGHAN.

5. COMMENT. ANGLO-SOVIET DECLARATION IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF INTEREST OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL. LABOR PARTY HAS TAKEN STRONG PUBLIC POSITION FAVORING DISARMAMENT AND MAY BE USING SUPPORT FOR ARMS CONTROL TO DIVERT SOME ATTENTION FROM UK DEFENSE SPENDING. UK WILL NOT ONLY SUPPORT REASONABLE DISARMAMENT ACTIVITIES BUT WILL WANT TO BE SEEN AS A LEADER IN THE FIELD. ANGLO-SOVIET DECLARATION WAS JUST ONE INDICATION OF A MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON DISARMAMENT WHICH HAD THE SECONDARY BENEFIT OF INDICATING THAT UK/USSR RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING. SPIERS

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